THE BIBLE SEIZED UPON AS A CLOAK FOR IMMORAL PLAYS.



Mile. Sarah Bernhardt

as Mary Magdalene, and Mrs. Potter as

A few months from now and you will see David Beinsco hobshe will be able to ogle and leer as the lecherous Mrs. Potiphar,
nobbing with the Rev. Dr. John Hall, possibly on the subject secure in the knowledge that good Christians cannot object.

of the murder of Abel by Cain. Should this murder occur in I imagine I can hea her with the interviewer, "Why, my good the improper occur in I imagine I can hea her with the interviewer, that Sarah nersein a good play, and as nothing more. It is not worth while and it must be to ogle and leer as the lecherous Mrs. Potiphar, will not seek to entice this public to a hysterical appreciation might involve our stage in many unpleasant wars of words.

Managers are naturally delighted at anything which threat-Canary and Lederer with respect to their marvellous spectacie, is improper, you are libelling the book of books."

birds of the air and the beasts of the earth as leading rett has cunningly led you to believe that it is religious, inbirds of the air and the beasts of the earth as leading rett has cunningly led you to believe that it is religious, inpersonally, I sincerely trust that religion and the Bible will
not be supplemented by the apotheosis of man, or—
spired, an consequently eminently serious.

The there is not the least
is large enough, and I don't think that it needs any recruits. I

to come to the aid of the clergy (and incidentally, of course, to

in Shakespearian form, it would have died of Canaan. months ago. As it is, it invites people to Yet Mrs. Potter's zeal may deceive that come and see an easily intelligible usual portion of the public which is not theatre-

halls, all on account of the influence of is, perhaps, the biggest iuxury in life. Those "The Sign of the Cross." In fact, there is who do not patronize it are jealous of those really no limit to the influence that the who do. Fanatical ministers who preach Biblical drama may exert over us. And the against it do so because they are fully clergy will either be pleased at the play- aware of the stupendous influence that it wrights' interference, or indignant at this possesses. Give all these humbugs the encroachment upon sacred domains.

the naughty Mrs. Potiphar, and Kyrle Bel-low as the unresponsive Joseph, in a re-ligious play called "Joseph of Canaan." Sign of the Cross" in this city, and the to ask everybody most embarrassing questo appear (with one eye on the American tions about it. I never could understand public) before the Parisians as Mary Magwhy Joseph ran away and left his coat dalene. We all know Sarah, and we ail was to turn to the story of Mrs. Potiphar and the sensationalism that is all the more and Joseph. And I read this: "But now potent because it touches a vital spot. Sarah a great trouble fell on Joseph. This is has exhausted all legitimate interest in did not mind telling stories, and "Marguerite Gauthier," disliked Joseph because he was so good. "Nora" and "Adrienne Lecouvreur."

the third or fourth act of the great play. "A Brother's Jeal-man," says Cors. safety you allow the list of the great play. "A Brother's Jeal-man," says Cors. safety you allow the list of the great play. "A Brother's Jeal-man," says Cors. safety you allow the list of remove the inegramate from the large transit of remove the inegram to remov

Why, at the opening performance of "The Sign of the it is the logic that will be allowed to settle the suggestive scene at the Knickerbocker Theatre, Monday night, guess between Mercia and Marcus in "The Sign of the Cross." whom I saw, watching it all with an expression of chubby excuse for this episode of course is—a desire to show the inchastity on his brow! You wouldn't guess if you tried for a year, duence of the cross on rampant sexuality. Mercia is saved could find no a to I'll fell you. I saw Edward Everett Rice, he of "Evange- from Marcus by holding up the sacred symbot. The public gets Knickerbocker, Anickerbocker, Secause the "popular" elements have been so "Well, we can't go back on the Bible. Mrs. Potter is doing a net," "Excelsior, Jr." and "1502" renown. Mr. Rice felt that all the naughtiness it wants in the guise of sanctimoniousness defity claked. Not that I believe for a moment that "The Sign reverent thing." In fact, after these lines have been read. I shouldn't be supported if Mrs. Potter is doing a new epoch was dawning—an epoch with "money in it," and A modern heroine walking down Broadway would be marched of the Cross" will be taken up as seriously in New York as it shouldn't be supported if Mrs. Potter is doing a new epoch was dawning—an epoch with "money in it," and A modern heroine walking down Broadway would be marched of the Cross" will be taken up as seriously in New York as it he was on hand to see what could be done. My own idea is off to Bloomingdale if when accosted by some boozy chapple was in London. New Yorkers will see in it merely an exceed-that he is planning a gigantic spectacle, with "The Creation" she suddenly held up a cross in his face. Nobody laughs at langly good, strong and highly interesting play, while in London s its subject-and the birth of the sun, moon and stars, the the incident as shown at the Knickerbocker, because Mr. Bar- they saw in it a fervent story of the triumph of Christianity.

market, make pilgrimages to the Oberammergan Passion Play She might even do a dance with cymbals as Mirlam the proph- tlemen are capital separately, but, blended, they would become

their own ald), by ransacking the vast though "The Sign of the Cross" is assuredstorehouses containing religious material, ly a finer lesson in religion than anything and giving the public drama that they can- Dr. Parkhurst, or Dr. Eaton, or Dr. John not consistently refuse, if they value their Hall have ever preached. "Joseph of Caregutation as theists in a theistic com- naan" is a lesson in nothing but how to be munity. Wilson Barrett thoroughly under- nasty, though Biblical. If the play be done stood the oddity of the times when he here, you will hear Sunday-school Instructions of the Cross." He has tors referring their pupils to the stage: "I furnished a "popular" play, and has carefully avoided everything classical, all poetly avoided everything classical everything classical everything classical everything classical everything classical everything cl "The Sign of the Cross" had been done up to be fully posted, to a matinee of 'Joseph

going. Misguided people who stay away Why, not very long ago, in London, they from the theatres need but the slightest extried semi-religious songs at the music cuse to draw them thither. The playhouse slightest pretext for altering their views, I must confess that I marvelled at the and after them they will. That is why the audacity of the latest intelligence to the present indications of an invasion of Biblieffect that Mrs. Potter intends to appear as cal subjects for stage material cannot be

The story of Mrs. Potiphar has always purchase of "Joseph of Canaan" by Mrs. been a sore subject with Bible teachers. Potter and Mr. Bellew, we get the infor-Years ago at school it puzzled me. I used mation that Sarah Bernhardt is preparing with Mrs. Potiphar. An aunt of mine adore her, but we are perfectly aware that wrote a book called "Bible Readings With if she dallies with the Magdalene subject, My Children," and the first thing I did it is merely for the sake of sensationalism, how it came about. Potiphar's wife, I am such legitimate subjects as "Fedora," "La sorry to say, was a very wicked woman, Tosca," "Cleopatra," "Izeyl," "Gismonda, So one day when Potiphar came lar history and fiction have been robbed of home she told him that Joseph had their treasures to feed Sarah's cyclonic

we will utilize your theatra-going propensities for the benefit of the clergy, and if they don't like it—well, it is merely because they are envious and impressed with their own incompetency."

A few months from now and send of the public declines to go and see details a trifle saucy. The public declines to go and see details a suggested asking Colored to gave beauty and say that they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that this sort of farce wond they do here, I presume that th

of the murder of Abel by Cain. Should this murder occur in I imagine I can be the fatigued condition of the drama. The genthe third or fourth act of the great play, "A Brother's Jeal- man," says Cora, "surely you cannot accuse me of pandering to chaff; to remove the lilegitimate from the halo of the legitimate from the halo of the legitimate who announced that "Shakespeare spelled failure" had Little Moses," and Dr. Parkhurst, tired of politics, will turn read the Bible to-day, so I long to bring it home to them—to course, appeal irresistibly to portions of the community. But his attention to the Casino and lend his advice to Messrs. faunt it in their faces on the stage. If you say Mrs. Poliphar there is nothing in the least holy about a partrayal of the Poliphar-Joseph difficulty or the Mary Magdalene episode, both of which are now sought simply by reason of the London success of "The Sins of the Cross," Wilson Barrett, however, care-The fully avoided all points that might have led toward inhospitable have publicly deploted the Ibsen fed and its influence open the

ophing in the triumph of the Christian maiden, Mercia, ap- harm in the world in presenting religious plays with a semi- feel inclined to say to the reverend doctors of divinity: "For sumpling in the triumph of the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharm in the world in presenting religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharm in the world in presenting religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharm in the world in presenting religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharm in the world in presenting religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharm in the world in presenting religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharm in the world in presenting religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharm in the world in presenting religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharm in the world in presenting religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian maiden, Mercia, apharent nobleness of object, it seems rather unbind to dive goodness' sake nake yourselves more interesting, less bigoted, less prejudiced, and refuse to avail yourselves of the threatened of the playwrights." I am not auxious to criticise a tragedy from the pens of "Messrs. Henry Guy Carleton and T. De with the Christian maiden, and personal parallel in the Christian maiden, and personal parallel in the Christian maiden, and personal parallel in the Christian market properties. This is neurasthenia with a vengeance. This is merely and offer it to the public as holy less begonders, sake yourselves more interesting, less bigoted, less brighted to say to the vertical parallel in the Christian market pourselves mark yourselves more interesting, less bigoted, less brighted to say to the religious plays with a state parallel in the Christian market properties. The Bible and religious properties and properties of the threatened to say to the religious plays and the say to the find the christian market properties. The Bible and religious properties and properties of the threatened to say to the find the line in the Bible and religious pl

far more creditable than one drawn by the percential heroine in the black dress, who, with me-child in her arms and a fine paper snowstorm all around her, cries to the fictitious villain, are no Biblical excuse for their existence. Mrs. Potter knows comparatively new, but also very far-reaching in its effects, have no Biblical excuse for their existence. Mrs. Potter knows comparatively new, but also very far-reaching in its effects, have no Biblical excuse for their existence. Mrs. Potter knows comparatively new, but also very far-reaching in its effects, have no Biblical excuse for their existence. Mrs. Potter knows comparatively new, but also very far-reaching in its effects, have no Biblical excuse for their existence. Mrs. Potter knows comparatively new, but also very far-reaching in its effects, have no Biblical excuse for their existence. Mrs. Potter knows comparatively new, but also very far-reaching in its effects, and by announcing herself as the purchaser of I shall not apologize for having trespassed upon your attention with the subject. The religious topic is a dangerous attention with the subject. The religious topic is a dangerous attention with the subject. The religious topic is a dangerous attention with the subject. The religious topic is a dangerous tregorn attention with the subject. The religious topic is a dangerous attention with the subject. The religious topic is a dangerous tregorn attention with the subject. The religious topic is a dangerous tregorn attention with the subject. The religious topic is a dangerous to point out what might happen. Forewarded is forearmed. Let the play very far reaching in its effects, and the clergy will stand the clergy will be forearmed. Let the play very far reaching in its effects. The play attention of Canaan." Perhaps my imagination is going to far. I will be forearmed. Let the play attention with the subjects at the play attention with the subjects. The play attention of Canaan." Perhaps my imagination of Canaan." Perhaps my imagination of Canaan." In fact, I doubt whether even the clergy will stand this, Al- connected. The lives of the saints-if you study them-will no-



no grudge at all against the Bard of Avon, but was merely indicating the trend of public taste. If Biblical plays are produced ad nauseam, he will undoubtedly declare later on that "The Bible spells failure." All is fish that comes to his net. We know that managers are not "In the business for their health." I have no hesitation in saying that I am quite convinced Mrs. Potter will have no trouble at all in locating herself discussion. The most devout theatre-goer and non-theatre-goer author of "Sweet Lavender." which caused him to write "Mrs. could find no solitary loophole for objection in the play at the Tanqueray" and "Mrs. Ebbsmith," will be the first to say, "popular" elements bave been so "Well, we can't go back on the Bible. Mrs. Potter is doing a shouldn't be surprised if Mrs. Potter were deluged with cables, in Australia, to this effect: "Journal to-day gives you fine send-

I am told that when "The Sign of the Cross" has run out its life at the Lyric Theatre, however, Mr. Barrett has a new play called "Daughters of Babylon," built upon similar lives; further that Mr. Hayman, of this city, will be given the American privileges of that new production as soon as it has been pre-sented in London. I am rather pleased to say that the probabilities are that we shall not see "Daughters of Babylon" this season. You see, I am afraid of the religious mania, and I am also disinclined to see our famous ministers lamenting the loss on." All these gen- of their flocks. What would become of them? If all the theatres in this city took to presenting church-going dramas, I supmarket, make plightnages to the Coordinate gas Passon Pay
and wipe away a tear over Paul Verlaine's invocations to the
and wipe away a tear over Paul Verlaine's invocations to the
virgin." I suppose they feel that a tear on such a subject is
far more creditable than one drawn by the percental heroine
In the black dress, who, with me-child in her arms and a fine
the managers would offer the disconsolate ministers
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postlions as "press agents. It would be the least they could do.
Imagine Dr. Parkhurst penning "squibs" for "The Daughters
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Imagine Dr. Parkhurst penning "squibs" for "The Daughters
of Babylon" and Dr. Rainsford turning out "copy" for "Joseph
which is new And as the Biblical drama would not only be
and wipe away a tear over Paul Verlaine's invocations to the
dess, or pose in Priscilla-like innocence as Ruth. There is absolute
rather trying.

Father trying.

Father trying.

Father trying.

For the disconsolate ministers
positions as "press agents. It would be the least they could do.

Imagine Dr. Parkhurst penning "squibs" for "The Daughters
of Babylon" and Dr. Rainsford turning out "copy" for "Joseph
of Canaau." Perhaps my imagination is greatered. pose that the managers would offer the disconsolate ministers

beilah McCarthy Sign of the (ross" Mr. Kyrle Mallagi

Joseph.

Miss



ASTONISHING CAREER OF THE MOST FAMOUS BANDIT

of the present century, whose name of

most popular personages in the dominions of King Humbert, and the name of the carabinier who laid him low with a rifle bullet is doomed to public execration. Nor is it likely that the man will live long to enjoy the \$10,000 price that was set on Tiburzi's head. For there are hundreds, who, deep in debts of gratitude toward the famous brigand, have sworn to avenge his death. CA

The poor-and nine-tenths of the people are poverty-stricken in Italy-were blindly devoted to him, knowing that he was always ready to relieve their misery with a gold coin, which did not come the less am's to them for having been wrested by force from some rich traveller. And he was likewise an honored guest in many a country house and even castle, the noble owners of which were glad to pay him tribute, extending in some cases to as much as \$1,000 per annum, in return for which he guaranteed them in the most absolute mauner from any theft, robbery or arson.

He was an important factor in all the parliamentary, provincial and municipal elections of Central Italy, and, as far as the rural districts were concerned, invariably secured the election of his own candidates by an overwhelming majority, no one liking to run the risk of casting their ballots in favor of any other nominee than one whom he put forward. Thus it came that his power as a political "boss" grew to be as great and as extensive as that of Richard Croker and of Thomas C. Platt combined, and there was scarcely a who owed their election entirely to him. di Castelli quarter.

Tiburzi had become surrounded by such a vorite disguise of a priest he was con-



Disguised as a Priest.

village or a small town in the central por- the name of his father-in-law, and which would put an end to his existence, all extion of the kingdom the Mayors and Jus- comprised at least half a dozen large tene- cept the very small fry were in the tices of the Peace of which were not men ment and apartment houses in the Prati habit of reporting for duty with the chief

This goes far to explain the astounding. Among those whom he favored with his them about like so many recruits. His Banualty which he enjoyed for so many attention have been the reigning Grand income was \$50,000 per annum from comyears, and for the fact that under his fa- Duke of Saxe Meiningen, who was forced to missions alone

Italy mourns at the present moment the death of the most celebrated brigand chief OF THE CENTURY. about bim, as well as his wife's jewelry, two years ago while driving back from Frascati to Rome, and it is probable that halo of romance that he was actually restantly able to visit Rome, sometimes for had Tiburgi known of the rank of his vicgarded as one of the glories of the king- the purpose of conferring with the score or tim he would have held him for a large so of members of the National Legislature, ransom. The late Cardinal Theodoli, one of Although for forty years he had lived by who were indebted to him for their sears, the grand dignitaries of the Papai Court, means of crime, through which he man-aged to amass an immense fortune, amount-ing his real estate—all of it registered in used to call them. The Cardinal was caping to over \$1,000,000, yet he was one of the Tiburzi, Italy's Dick Turpin villa of a friend on the Alban Hills, and

was held as a prisoner until his relatives could scrape together the \$20,000 ransom demanded for his release. He was treated with the utmost consideration and courtesy during his captivity, and was formed to celebrate mass for the brigands every morning as long as he was with them. Indeed, they parted with so much mutual regard and esteem that the prelate of his own accord gave them his blessing, to receive which they all knelt in the most reverend manner. Three mouths later the Cardiral while crossing the bridge at Rome on his way to the Vatican was stopped by Tiburzi, who was disguised as usual as a priest, and who handed to His Eminence a very costly jewelled reliquary, which the prelate had forgotten at the time when he parted from his brigand friends. The Cardinal made no attempt to stop Tiburzi, but extended his hand in friendly greeting to copal ring of His Eminence, The authorities but once made his per-

sonal acquaintance, namely, in 1872, when he was sentenced to the galleys for life after being found guilty of a foul murder, of levying blackmall in dozens of cases, and of "holding up" long processions of wealthy people. Two years he spent in the salt marshes of Torneto-Tarquinla, working assiduously for the benefit of the state,

His was of the high hand-"either you are with me or against me" was his motto-and as no criminal cared to operate on his own account, knowing that, sooner or later, Tibural's unerring rifle of Central Italy Brigantaggio, who ordered

